

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (new) An information recording apparatus for recording record information onto a recording medium having an optically recordable recording surface, comprising:

a laser light source;

a converting optical system for converting a laser beam emitted from said laser light source to a plate-like laser beam whose cross section extends linearly and for emitting the laser beam such that a direction extending linearly is along the recording surface;

a one-dimensional spatial modulating device for performing one-dimensional spatial modulation in the direction extending linearly with respect to the plate-like laser beam, on the basis of the record information;

a recording optical system for recording the record information onto the recording medium, by irradiating the recording surface with reference light based on the laser beam emitted from said laser light source while irradiating the recording surface with the spatial modulated plate-like laser beam as signal light; and

a displacing device for displacing the recording medium relative to said recording optical system such that irradiation positions of the signal light and the reference light are relatively displaced on the recording surface,

said recording optical system including:

a splitting optical system for splitting the laser beam emitted from said laser light source into the signal light and the reference light in a previous step of said converting optical system; and

a combining optical system for combining the one-dimensional spatial modulated signal light and the reference light to a same optical path, in a subsequent step of said one-dimensional spatial modulating device.

13. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said splitting optical system splits the reference light such that the optical path of the reference light and the plate-like laser beam are located side-by-side as viewed from the recording surface.

14. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said recording optical system further comprises a splitting optical system for splitting the laser beam emitted from said laser light source into the signal light and the reference light in a previous step of said converting optical system, and

the one-dimensional spatial modulated signal light and the reference light are combined to a same optical path and irradiated to the recording surface.

15. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said splitting optical system splits the reference light such that the optical path of the reference light and the plate-like laser beam are located side-by-side as viewed from the recording surface.

16. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the reference light is emitted from said laser light source, together with the signal light, and irradiated to the

recording surface through said converting optical system, said one-dimensional spatial modulating device, and said recording optical system.

17. (new) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein an axis in a longitudinal direction of said one-dimensional spatial modulating device is crossed with a disc radial direction.